

# FOR HOMEOWNERS THE SOLAR ADVANTAGE

## GIVE YOUR HOME THE SOLAR ADVANTAGE

Powering your home with clean, renewable solar energy has never been easier. By “Going Solar” with California Solar Initiative (CSI) rebates through your Program Administrator, you can lower your monthly utility bill. Plus, solar generating systems can be a sound investment that can increase the overall value of your home.

## EFFICIENCY IS KEY

Making your home energy efficient before you “Go Solar” may dramatically lower the upfront costs of your solar generating system. California also provides rebates for many energy-efficiency upgrades. Contact your Program Administrator to learn more.



## SOLAR MAKES SAVINGS

Program Administrators provide CSI rebates to consumers to install solar generating systems on their homes. Rebates for most systems less than 10 kilowatts in size are based on the *expected* performance of the generating system and are determined using a calculator that factors in the equipment rating and other special design factors. The CSI rebate levels, which decline as more solar projects are reserved, are listed on the Statewide Trigger Tracker and can vary by utility territory. Qualified solar contractors have the expertise to help you get the optimal rebate for your system—many can offer alternative financing or leasing arrangements that can reduce your upfront costs to zero and/or allow you to pay for your system over many years.

*In addition, there's currently a 30 percent federal tax credit based on the overall solar generating system cost. Depending on your individual circumstances, together these rebates can reduce the cost of your system by more than 50 percent.*



## “GOING SOLAR” MADE SIMPLE

- 1. Take an Energy-Efficiency Audit:**  
Your Program Administrator can provide you with a quick and easy audit to identify ways you can first reduce your home's energy use before sizing your solar generating system.
- 2. Find a Contractor:**  
The Go Solar, California! Web site maintains an eligible solar contractor list that can help you find a contractor in your area, assisting you with bid comparisons.
- 3. Install a Solar Generating System:**  
Your licensed solar contractor can design, install and apply for solar system rebates on your behalf. The solar contractor will also work with your utility to interconnect your system into the utility grid.
- 4. Claim Your Rebate:**  
Your rebate, in most instances, is calculated by the expected performance of your system and can be claimed by you or assigned to the contractor, per your request. Once you receive written approval from your utility to operate your generating system, the rebate claim can be submitted to your Program Administrator.
- 5. Get Net Energy Metering:**  
NEM provides you with a monthly bill credit for the electricity you produce in excess of your consumption—this credit can be applied to your electric usage over a 12-month period, potentially generating significant savings for you.

# SOLAR ENERGY 101

Photovoltaic (PV) power generating systems turn sunlight into electricity. When sunlight hits PV panels, they generate an electric current, which is converted, via an inverter, into electricity to power your home.

A PV system enables you to generate some or all of your daily electricity needs. A special net energy meter tracks excess power generated, providing you with a credit that can be used when your system is not producing (e.g., at night). Your house remains connected to the electricity grid, so any electricity needs not provided by your system are simply and automatically drawn from the grid and provided by your utility.

## SO WHY GO SOLAR?

- Solar generating systems can reduce your monthly electricity bill and generate energy for your home for 20 years or more.
- The electricity generated by your system is clean, renewable and reliable.
- Rebates from the CSI are at their highest, declining as more megawatts of solar are reserved.
- Solar technologies are reliable and effective and come with a 10-year warranty.

## NET ENERGY METERING: GET CREDIT FOR THE ELECTRICITY YOU PRODUCE

NEM is a special billing arrangement that allows you to receive credit for the full retail value of the electricity your system exports to your utility. Your special net energy meter keeps track of your electricity generation and consumption. Over a 12-month period, you pay for the *net amount* of electricity that you consume, less any generation export credit you have accrued—saving you money.



## LEARN MORE

Visit California's one-stop shop for solar rebate and installation information, [www.GoSolarCalifornia.ca.gov](http://www.GoSolarCalifornia.ca.gov).

Here, you can:

- Find solar contractors in your area.
- View the CSI Consumer Guide.
- Learn more about the CSI with helpful statistics including average system costs.
- Get more information on new solar home communities.
- Obtain a copy of the CSI Program Handbook.
- Use the Clean Power Estimator, which enables you to estimate your solar savings.
- Learn about energy-efficiency rebates offered through your Program Administrator.



## CSI PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR CONTACT INFORMATION

### California Center for Sustainable Energy (for SDG&E customers)

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### Pacific Gas and Electric Company

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This fact sheet is intended to be an overview and introduction to the CSI Program. It is not intended to replace the CSI Program Handbook. If there are differences between the Handbook and this fact sheet, the Handbook shall prevail. Please see the most recent version of the Handbook for the most up-to-date information at [www.GoSolarCalifornia.ca.gov/documents](http://www.GoSolarCalifornia.ca.gov/documents).

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